

SENATE RESOLUTION 287

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent, United States Marine Corps, for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize members of the United States Armed Forces who have established distinguished records during their military careers and who have demonstrated great courage and competence in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent, the sixteenth Sergeant Major of the United States Marine Corps, is one such outstanding officer who has served this Nation and this State in both peace and war with great valor, professionalism, and dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Sgt. Maj. Kent graduated from South Side High School; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, in March of 1976 and was assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, he was transferred to Marine Security Battalion, where he served as a Marine Security Guard protecting American embassies in Zaire and Panama; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Kent attended Fort Benning's Airborne School and Fort Lee's Parachute Riggers School in 1981, preparing him for duty as 2nd Air Delivery Platoon Commander and as parachute rigger billets in a variety of commands at Camp Lejeune; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent transferred to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California, where he trained future generations of marines and rendered sterling service as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Battalion Drill Master with First Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Kent, in 1985, was meritoriously promoted to Gunnery Sergeant, and later that same year he became Platoon Sergeant for the 3rd Air Delivery Platoon before transferring in 1986 to Engineer Company, Brigade Service Support Group-1, 1st Marine Brigade as Company Gunnery Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent was assigned as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge for the Noncommissioned Officers School, 1st Marine Brigade; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Kent attended Drill Instructor School at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, in 1989 and was later assigned to Naval Aviation Officers Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, as a Drill Instructor, Chief Drill Instructor, and First Sergeant; in 1990, he became First Sergeant of the Marine Aviation and Training Support Group in Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, following service with the 4th Marine Regiment in 1992, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent attended the Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas; upon graduation in 1994, he was assigned as First Sergeant, Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, before assuming the duties as the Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines; and

WHEREAS, returning to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in 1997, Sgt. Major Kent served as Sergeant Major of the Second Recruit Training Battalion and, in 1999, as Sergeant Major of the Recruit Training Regiment; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent became the Sergeant Major of the Marine Forces Europe/Fleet Marine Force Europe stationed in Stuttgart, Germany; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, he was transferred to I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, California, where he served as Sergeant Major of the I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his unparalleled expertise and the éclat with which he always performed his duties, Sgt. Major Kent acceded to the integrally important position of Sergeant Major of the United States Marine Corps in 2007, making him the sixteenth marine in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps to fill the top enlisted post; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent has earned the Legion of Merit with a Gold Star, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, the

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Award with a Gold Star, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the General Gerald C. Thomas Award; he also earned three Rifle Expert Badges and the Pistol Sharpshooter Badge; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Kent has served with great bravery and ability, and he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Major Carlton Kent has performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Sergeant Major Carlton W. Kent for meritorious service in the United States Marine Corps, praise him for his dedication to his country and his State, and thank him for his unceasing commitment to duty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.